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Fingerprint Image Input Device

[CLAIM]

A fingerprint image input device comprising an illumination device that images a fingerprint image, an imaging element, and a control device, and that obtains a fingerprint image by pressing of a finger on a transparent body, characterized in having a structural unit that moves said transparent body; a spring for effecting force in a reverse direction of the direction of movement of said transparent body for the purpose of exerting distortion of a fixed amount and fixed direction on a finger pressed atop said transparent body; and a detection device that detects the amount of movement at a time point when said transparent body reaches a fixed amount of movement, and that controls the input/output switch of said control device.

[DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION]

[FIELD OF USE]

The present invention concerns devices that obtain a fingerprint image by pressing of a finger against a transparent surface without ink, without variation in the fingerprint image, and such that imaging is realized under equal imaging conditions.

[PRIOR ART]

Prior art devices for obtaining of fingerprint images of individuals without ink are as shown in figure 3.

Within the figure, 1 is a finger, 2 is a prism, 30 is a spring, 40 is a pressure-sensitive unit, 50 is an AND gate, 60 is a controller, 70 is an image-sensor unit, 80 is a light-source, 90 is an interface, 100 is a fitting for the purpose of adding an equal force to said pressure-sensitive unit 100.

The principle of operation of figure 3 will be explained hereinbelow.

As shown in figure 3, as finger 1 is pressed against prism 2, said pressure is transmitted to plural pressuresensitive units 40 via spring 30. Spring 30 gives prism 2 the freedom to move corresponding to the pressure of finger 1, and functions to ensure that pressure is exerted against the individual pressing their finger against the device, while making the difference in power added to pressuresensitive unit 40 clear.

In plural pressure-sensitive units 40, a signal is transmitted to AND gate 50 only in cases wherein the pressure is of a certain value, or of a value within a certain range. As the signal from AND gate 50 is received by controller 60, light source 80 and image sensor unit 70 are driven, and a fingerprint image is imaged. The fingerprint image imaged by said image sensor unit 70 is then sent to

another processing unit (not shown) from interface 90 via control from controller 60.

[PROBLEMS TO BE ADDRESSED]

However, in prior art fingerprint image input devices, a finger is pressed so as to obtain a certain value or above or a value from within a certain range from multiple pressure sensors 40; because it is necessary to obtain a balance of sensed pressure, a force (finger pressure) must be pressed atop prism 2 with equality and for a long period of time. Therefore, when the fingerprint image is obtained in cases of elderly people, infants, people with injuries, or sick individuals who cannot maintain adequate pressure and balance, the resulting imaging fails; or a deviation of force during pressing, a turning of the pressed finger, or the like generates large differences in the fingerprint images from a fingerprint-characteristic standpoint.

[MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM, AND FUNCTION]

The present invention takes note of the disadvantage of prior art, and offers a fingerprint image input device comprising an illumination device that images a fingerprint image, an imaging element, and a control device, and that obtains a fingerprint image by pressing of a finger on a transparent body, characterized in having a structural unit that moves said transparent body, a spring for effecting force in a reverse direction of the direction of movement of said transparent body for the purpose of exerting distortion of a fixed amount and fixed direction on a finger pressed

atop said transparent body; and a detection device that detects the amount of movement at a time point when said transparent body reaches a fixed amount of movement, and that controls the input/output switch of said control device.

Furthermore, a fingerprint image input device characterized in that, said structure for moving said transparent body contains a spring that obtains a desired amount of movement and that controls the movement of said transparent body.

[EMBODIMENT]

An embodiment of the present invention will be explained based on the drawings hereinbelow.

Figure 1 shows an embodiment of a fingerprint image input device of the present invention; figure 2 shows the pressure direction during pressing within the transparent body shown in figure 1. Within the diagrams, 1 is a finger; 2 is a transparent body such as a prism; 3 is a support unit for transparent body 2; 3' is a slide unit that supports support unit 3 so as to be movable in a set direction; 4 is a spring that controls the movement of transparent body 2; 5 is a detector; 6 is an image sensor; 7 is an illumination device; 8 is a control unit; 9 is a transmission unit; 10 is the direction of press-force within transparent body 2 from the pressure of finger 1; 11 and 12 are the horizontal and vertical partial-forces of said press-force 10.

First, the operation of the present invention will be explained.

As shown in figure 1, transparent body 2 can be moved in the directions 13 and 14 atop slide unit 3' by support unit 3 of transparent body 2. For the purpose of controlling the movement of transparent body 2, spring 4 that is fixed to one end of slide unit 3', is fixed to support unit 3 of transparent body 2. In short, the movement of transparent body 2 in directions 13 and 14 is controlled by spring 4.

A case of imaging of a fingerprint image will be described.

After pressing finger 1 atop transparent body surface 2a, transparent body 2 is pulled in direction 14. After moving a certain distance, support unit 3 of transparent body 2 comes into contact with detector 5 that is provided in the position of slide unit 3'. At the time when detector 5 and support unit 3 contact, the movement of transparent body 2 is stopped, and simultaneously detector 5 comes to be in an "on" condition. With detector 5 in an "on" condition, an operation command is issued from control unit 8, and illumination unit 7 and image sensor 6 are operated, driven, and a fingerprint image is imaged by image sensor 6.

The fingerprint image imaged by the operation above is received by control unit 8, and is sent to a processing unit (not shown) via transmission unit 8.

Next, a method of usage of the fingerprint image of finger 1 as with the present invention will be explained.

Finger 1 is pressed atop surface 2a of transparent body 2 shown in figure 2, and as spring 4 is expanded in direction 14, transparent body 2 generates force in the direction of 10 by finger 1. From the force-point 6 of finger 1, said force 10 is divided into partial forces in the vertical direction 12 and horizontal direction 11. Partial force 11 overcomes the force of spring 4 and pulls support unit 3 towards the position of detector 5, such that there is a necessary amount of force to maintain detector 5 in an "on" condition; furthermore, partial force 12 is the force necessary such that the finger does not slide atop surface 2a of transparent body 2.

Said partial force 11 and 12 have the function of exerting a fixed distortion regardless of the characteristics of the finger. Therefore, on contact surface 2a for finger 1 and transparent body 2, because a slight distortion in a fixed direction is added to the finger, the image of the fingerprint will can be imaged in a fixed form every time.

[EFFECT]

As explained in detail above, by the present invention, in the case of obtaining a fingerprint image by pressing a finger against a transparent body such as a prism, the finger can be imaged such that the detector is in an "on" condition when a slight distortion in a fixed direction is obtained; because of this, a crooked fingerprint image caused by the characteristics of the finger can be prevented

and there is an advantage such that a fingerprint image can be obtained without offset.

Furthermore, in the present invention, the pre-process prior to effecting fingerprint comparison can be simplified, and there is an advantage such that the identification rate is improved.

[BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS]

Figure 1 is a diagram showing an embodiment of the present invention. Figure 2 is a diagram showing the pressure distribution within the transparent body of figure 1. Figure 3 is a diagram showing prior art.

- 1 Finger
- 2 Transparent body
- 3 Support unit
- 4 Spring
- 5 Detector
- 6 Image sensor
- 7 Illuminator
- 8 Control unit
- 9 Transmission unit

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❷発明の名称

指紋画像入力装置

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1. 発明の名称

指紋画像入力装置

2. 特許請求の範囲

3. 発明の詳細な説明

(産業上の利用分野)

本発明は、インク等を使用せずに透明体表面に指を押し当て指紋画像を得る装置において、 指紋画像のばらつきをなくし、均一な撮像状態 製での損像を実現する装置に関する

(従来の技術)

インク等を用いないで、各人の指紋画像を採取する装置は従来では第3図に示す如く実施例があった。

図において、1 は指、2 はプリズム、3 0 はバネ、4 0 は感圧部、5 0 はアンドゲート、6 0 はコントローラ、7 0 はイメージセンサ部、8 0 は光源、9 0 はインターフェイス、1 0 0 は前記感圧部 4 0 に均一な圧力を加えるための金具等である。

次に第3図の動作原理について説明する。

第3回に示す如く、指1がブリズム2に圧着されると、該圧力がバネ30を介して複数の感圧部40に伝わる。バネ30は、指1の圧着に対応するブリズム2の動きに自由度を持たせることで、指を圧者する各人に対して圧着の補正を促すとともに、感圧部40に加える力の差を明確にする働きをする。

複数の感圧部40では、該圧力がある値以上

(2)

あるいはある範囲内の値である場合にのみ信号をアンドゲート 5 0 に送信する。アンドゲート 5 0 に送信する。アンドゲート 5 0 からの信号がコントローラ 6 0 に伝受されると、光潔 8 0 及びイメージセンサ部 7 0 により 擬像される。 抜イメージセンサ部 7 0 により 擬像された指紋 画像は、コントローラ 6 0 の 制御により インターフェイス 9 0 から図示しない他の処理部に送られていた。

(発明が解決しようとする問題点)

図において、 1 は指、 2 は透明体で例えばブリズム、 3 は透明体 2 の支持部、 3 ′ は支持部 3 か一定方向に可動するように支持するスライド部、 4 は透明体 2 の動きを制御してなるバネ、5 は検出器、 6 はイメージセンサ、 7 は照明器、8 は制御部、 9 は通信部、 1 0 は指 1 の 圧着による透明体 2 内の押捺力方向、 1 1 、 1 2 は該押捺力方向 1 0 の水平、垂直方向の分力である。

(3)

まず、本発明の動作について脱明する。

指紋像を撮像する場合について説明する。

指1を透明体面2a上に押し当てた後、透明体2を14なる方向に引く。ある距離移動する

合や押しつける指の向きにより、指紋画像に大きな差が生じていた。

さらに、前記透明体を可動する機構部において、核透明体の動きを制御してなり、所定の可動量を得るバネを有することを特徴とする指紋 画像入力装置にある。

(実施例)

以下、本発明を図面に基づいて説明する。

第1 図は、本発明に係る指紋画像入力装置の 一実施例を示し、第2 図は第1 図に示す透明体 2 内の圧着時における圧力方向を示している。

(4)

とスライド部3′のある位置に配してなる検出器5に、透明体2の支持部3が接触する。検出器5と支持部3が接触した時点で、透明体2は移動を停止し、同時に検出器5が"ON"の状態で制御部8から動作指令が出され照明器7およびイメージセンサ6が動作、駆動し、指紋画像がイメージセンサ6にて撮像される。

以上の動作により撮像された指紋画像は、制御部 8 に取りこまれ、通信部 9 を経て不図示の処理部に送られる。

次に本発明に係る指1の指紋画像の採取方法について説明する。

(6)

状態に保持するのに必要な力であり、また分力 12は透明体2の面2a上で指がすべらないための必要な力を意味している。

該分力11、12は指そのものの特性を拘らず一定の歪を与える作用をなしている。従って指1と透明体2との接触面2aでは、指に一定方向の微小な歪が加わるので、指紋画像が毎回一定な像として撮像できる。

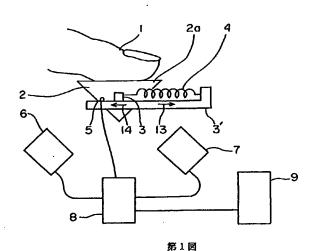
(発明の効果)

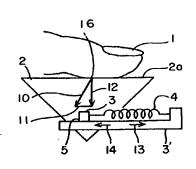
以上、詳細に説明したように、本発明によればブリズムなどの透明体に指を圧着し、指紋画像を得る場合において、指に一定方向の微小な 証が得られた時に検出器をONにして撮像することができるので指をのものの持つ性質からく る指紋画像のひずみを防止でき、バラツキのない指紋画像を採取する利点を有する。

また、本発明では、指紋照合を行う時の前処理の手順が簡略化でき、認識率が向上する利点 もある。

4. 図面の簡単な説明

(7)





第1 図は、本発明に係る一実施例を示した図、 第2 図は、第1 図で示した透明体内の圧力分布 を示した図、第3 図は従来例を示す図である。

1 … 指 2 … 透明体

3 … 支持部 4 … パネ

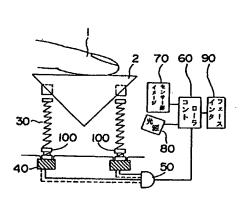
5 … 検出器 6 … イメージセンサ

7 … 照明器 8 … 制御部

9 …通信部

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(8)



第3图